

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California

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NEWS

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Congressman Herger Applauds Passage of Legislation Addressing Government Spending

Measure also extends extraordinarily successful welfare reform

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Congressman Herger today voted in favor of H.R. 4241, the Deficit Reduction Act, which the House passed by a vote of 217 to 215. The measure reforms several government programs to achieve savings of nearly \$50 billion in federal government expenditures over the next five years. The measure also extends the 1996 welfare reform law. Herger, as chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over welfare, has worked for several years to reauthorize this important law.

"The Deficit Reduction Act reforms key government programs and moves toward tightening our budget belts," Herger stated. "Although it reduces the rate of growth in federal spending by just one-tenth of one percent, this measure takes a good first step in achieving significant savings by reforming several government programs, some of which haven't been reformed in decades.

"I'm also extremely pleased that this measure includes a long-term extension of the enormously successful welfare-to-work law," added Herger. "Following the 1996 reforms, the number of families receiving cash assistance has declined an incredible 54%, from 4.8 million families in 1995, to 2.2 million in 2003. Today's action will help ensure this remarkable success continues, by strengthening work requirements and encouraging healthy marriage, while also increasing childcare funding. This bill represents a major victory in the effort to redirect vulnerable families from the culture of dependency that accompanies long-term welfare, and toward the triumph of self-sufficiency that comes with better employment and stronger families."

Herger concluded, "In passing this measure to responsibly address typically unrestrained mandatory spending, we demonstrated our commitment to fiscal responsibility, reforming government, and maintaining the trust of American taxpayers. This important action will help ensure that our children and grandchildren are not saddled with additional debt."

The House and Senate will now work to resolve differences between their savings measures.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!